

Miscellaneous.

A PRIMITIVE DWELLING PLACE.—In the township of Westhope, about eight miles from Ludlow, there is a man named Edward Howells, supposed to be about fifty years of age, who, for the last sixteen years, has had no other dwelling place than a hole or small cave scooped out of the rock; there is neither door nor any other convenience attached to it; he has not even a stool to sit upon; in fact, all this cave contains is a little moss and straw. Perhaps the most remarkable circumstance attending this eccentric being is, that every night, when he retires to his lair, he regularly undresses himself, as though about to enter ever so comfortable a bed. Howells is considered perfectly honest and inoffensive—he never begs, but stands daily a short distance from some farm-house gate, and thankfully receives whatever broken victuals, &c., may be compassionately given him. No one can ascertain his parish, or from whence he originally came.—*Ten Towns Messenger.*

NEW CHURCH IN CAMDEN TOWN.—The newspapers state that it is intended to erect a new church in the Camden Town district of St. Pancras, the population of which is 16,000, with church accommodation for only 1,600. For this purpose a plot of ground has been given, free of all costs, by the Marquis of Camden and the Rev. Thomas Randolph. In addition to this gift, the Marquis has subscribed 500*l.* towards the erection of the church, and the Rev. Thomas Randolph a like sum. Amongst the other contributors are the Rev. Dr. Moore, vicar of St. Pancras; Lord Calthorpe, Captain Theaker, the Rev. Mr. Langdale, Colonel Moore, &c. The Bishop of London has signified his approval of the place, and the works will be commenced as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

STATISTICS OF THE TIMBER TRADE OF CANADA FOR 1844.—We learn from the *Annual Circular* of Messrs. Forsyth and Bell that there has been a great increase in our consumption of Canadian timber during the last year. By the supervisor's return, the quantity received at Liverpool, is as follows:—White pine, 12,150,964 feet; red pine, 4,161,317 feet; oak, 709,540 feet; elm, 660,964 feet; ash, 128,453 feet; birch, 73,142 feet; maple, 621 feet; butternut, 3,040 feet; basswood, 7,919 feet; tamarack, 19,925 feet; round maple, 355 feet; hemlock, 1,001 feet; poplar, 45 feet; walnut, 3,489 feet. Taking into consideration a small quantity of timber, wintering over last year without being measured, and which of course is not included in the above return, our exports of square timber and that used in our shipyards will not vary much from the following:—White pine, 11,950,438 feet; red pine, 4,669,149 feet; oak, 1,213,110 feet; elm, 1,208,988 feet; ash, 122,346 feet; birch, 61,309 feet. The returns of deals and staves are not yet made up in the supervisor's office, but will be hereafter reported. The number of arrivals for the last four seasons have been as follows:—1844, 1,214 vessels, 458,971 tons; 1843, 1,185 vessels, 429,741 tons; 1842, 963 vessels, 307,418 tons.

STATE OF LUMBER IN THE PORT OF QUEBEC, DECEMBER 1, 1844, WITH A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

	Oak Timber.	Elm Timber.	Ash Timber.	Birch Timber.	White Pine Timber.	Red Pine Timber.
1844	857,241	538,846	77,990	36,189	3,552,994	9,969,686
1843	1,361,781	1,107,666	71,374	14,368	3,552,472	3,674,500
1842	1,738,198	1,416,648	61,648	17,877	7,181,446	1,399,181
1841	1,242,154	1,206,119	169,999	8,589	1,550,572	1,592,250
1840	1,172,413	1,107,970	169,183	23,490	3,371,984	1,323,448
1839	604,265	200,265	46,131	1,806	1,775,603	2,343,999

Note.—The above includes shippable and unshippable lumber.

THE KING OF THE FRENCH.—The King of the French has given the sum of 20*l.* towards the funds of the new Roman Catholic Church now erecting in Lambeth.

Fresco Painting.—We are sorry to hear that the experiments in fresco-painting recently made in the summer-house at Buckingham Palace have, with one exception, proved failures, owing to the artist's want of experience in the manipulative treatment of this style of painting. We have much yet to learn and to do before we can decorate our Houses of Parliament on the scale proposed.—*Polytechnic Review.*—[We must inquire into this.—Ed.]

NEW EXPLANATION OF A BOILER EXPLOSION.—Dr. Lardner having been appointed to investigate the cause of the explosion of a locomotive-engine on a railway in Pennsylvania, by which several lives were lost, has referred its cause to lightning, which, "passing on the boiler, raised some part of it to a high temperature; that the water taking up the heat was rapidly evaporated, as it would have been by contact with highly-heated or incandescent metal; that steam of great volume and very extreme pressure being thus suddenly produced, the boiler yielded to the force, and the catastrophe took place."—*Mining Journal.*

INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.—We announced last week the re-election of Mr. Walker to the presidency of this institution, and at the same time stated that a change had been contemplated. It appears that, in accordance with a feeling very generally entertained in the council, that the office of president should not be held in perpetuity by any one gentleman, Mr. Walker declined to act, and Sir John Rennie has been unanimously elected in his stead.

CONVERSATIONS AT SOCIETY OF ARTS.—The vice-presidents of this institution issued 200 or 1,000 cards for Tuesday evening last, and, in consequence, received a very numerous party. Drawings, bronzes, models, music, and conversation, formed the staple of a very pleasant evening, and kept many there till midnight. We are glad to find that this old and most valuable society is now again firmly established, and will continue its course of usefulness. Much praise is due to Mr. Wislaw, the secretary, for the zeal and energy he displays in his office.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For the formation of 4 Miles 564 Chains (single line) of the Ashton, Stalybridge, and Liverpool Junction Railway.—John Jellicoe, Secretary of the Manchester and Leeds Railway Company, Palatine Buildings, Hunt's Bank, Manchester. February 3.

For the works required in erecting certain Farm Buildings at Badley Hall, Essex, and for alterations and additions to the dwelling-house.—Mr. George Sergrant, 27, Queen-street, Colchester; or Mr. John Eagle, Badley Hall. February 3.

For the erection of a Bridge, called White Bridge, at Grasmere, near Ambleside, Westmoreland.—Mr. George Robinson, Bridge Surveyor, Kendal; or Mr. Daniel Donaldson, Ambleside. February 4.

For the construction of the several Stations and other Buildings on the York and Scarborough Railway.—Mr. Andrews, Architect, York; or Mr. George Baker, Secretary, Railway Office, York. February 5.

For the erection of a Steam Boat Pier at the Quay on the north-east side of Blackfriars' Bridge, also for building a Decked Lighter or Dumbly.—Town Clerk's Office, Guildhall. February 6.

For one Pleasure Carriage, four Milk Trucks, and fifty Box Waggon, with drawing and buffer springs, for the Manchester and Birmingham Railway.—Mr. John Latham, Secretary, London-road, Manchester. February 6.

For erecting and completing the Lower Sluice and Sluice-Pit at the top of the Eau, Brink Cut, about 4 miles above Lynn.—Messrs. Walker and Burgess, 23, Great George-street, Westminster; or Mr. George Game Day, Clerk to the Middle Level Drainage Commissioners, St. Ives. February 10.

For the erection of New Buildings in Pembroke College, Oxford.—Plans, &c., prepared by Mr. Haywood, Architect, may be seen at the Master's House. February 11.

For the erection of two Fever Wards in the workhouse at Slough.—C. P. Barrett, Clerk of the Union, Eton. February 11.

For the erection of a Cast-Iron Tank, 52 feet diameter and 16 feet deep; and for a double or Telescopic Gasholder, to work in the same. Also for a double or Telescopic Gasholder, 70 feet diameter, to work in a tank 18 feet deep.—Mr. John Rose, Engineer, Gas Works, Preston. February 12.

For a supply of Railway Fastenings for the Great Southern and Western Railway, Ireland.—Mr. William Taylor, Secretary, 3, College-green, Dublin. February 17.

For the Mason's and Pavlo's Works, supply of Guernsey Granite Chippings and Yorkshire Paving, for one year, from the 25th of March next, for the parish of St. George, Hanover-square. Mr. R. Lees, Clerk to the Paving Committee. March 4.

For the supply of 11,000 feet of nine-inch cast-iron Pipes for a new line of Aqueduct to be laid in the Island of Malta.—Vin. Casanovi, Collector of Land Revenue, Office of Land Revenue and Public Works, Valletta, Malta. March 31.

COMPETITION.

Plans and estimates are required for a Workhouse, to contain about 1,180 persons. The whole to be done in a plain and substantial manner, without any expensive embellishments. The plans and architects' estimates to be sent to Robert Mercer, the Clerk of the Clifton Union, Pennywell Road, Bristol, on or before the 17th of February next, and the Board of Guardians will adjudicate on the 28th. The architect producing the best plan in the estimation of the Board will be employed at a sum not exceeding 5 per cent. on the outlay, and a gratuity of 25 guineas will be given to the architect producing the second best plan in the opinion of the Board.

APPROACHING SALE OF WOOD, &c.

BY AUCTION.

February 25.—At the King's Arms Inn, Homel Hempstead; a large Fall of capital Oak, Ash, Elm, and Beech Timber Trees, the greater portion of which are of very large dimensions and superior quality.—Mr. James Adams, auctioneer, Clarence-street, Staines, Middlesex.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

During the ensuing week.

MONDAY, February 3.—Entomological, 17, Old Bond-street, 8 p.m.; Chemical (Society of Arts, Adelphi), 8 p.m.; Medical, Bolt-court, Fleet-street, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, 4.—Linnean, Soho-square, 8 p.m.; Civil Engineers, 25, Great George-street, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, 5.—Society of Arts, Adelphi, 8 p.m.; Geological, Somerset House, 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, 6.—Zoological, Hanover-square, 3 p.m.; Royal, Somerset House, 8 p.m.; Antiquarian, Somerset House, 8 p.m.; Metropolitan Improvement Society, 20, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, 7.—Royal Institution, Albemarle-street, 8 p.m.; Botanical, 20, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, 8.—Royal Botanic, Regent's-park, 4 p.m.; Westminster Medical, 32, Sackville-street, 8 p.m.

NOTE.

We shall be glad to receive information from Publishers of all New Books on the subjects whereof we treat.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"A.B. (Northampton)." wishes to know how the cells of the model prison at Pentonville are warmed, and by whom.

"A Handrailist" has made a mistake in his calculation: a plank 4 ft. 6 in. X 10 in. X 4½ in., contains 1 ft. 3 in. cube, not 15 ft.

"H.S." We do not desire to pursue the subject further.

"Mr. Hood."—Mr. Guthrie's address is 3, Downie-place, Edinburgh.

"J.W. (Ipswich)" must see that if we gave opinions on things we had not examined, our opinion would soon be disregarded.

"The Builders' Price Book, for 1845, by W. Laxton," received.

"R.K." and "Decorative Art Society" have reached us.

"A Journeyman Carpenter" wishes us to furnish a list of all builders who live in or around the metropolis. This may be found in any Directory, easily to be obtained.

"Exeter Hall Great Room." J.F. asks for a drawing and description of the roof of this building. We shall be happy to receive information upon it.

"J.T.L." next week.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

ANASTATIC PRINTING.—THE ART UNION. Part 77, published this day, contains Specimens of Letterpress, Woodcut, and Drawings printed by this process—a process which threatens to completely revolutionize Literature and Art. The letter-press consists of a minute description of the manner in which the process is effected; the woodcuts are of various dates; and the drawings have been executed on purpose for publication in these pages. The examples supply indubitable evidence that a new power has been obtained which must inevitably lead to wonderful results.

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